

CLAIMS

1. A palletizable container for preserving and transporting, in a controlled atmosphere and under a controlled pressure, any produce (plant material, cheese, microorganisms, seeds, substrates, etc) requiring a particular atmosphere during storage, the container comprising a first portion that is completely impermeable to gas and vapor and a second portion in the form of a member (12, 13, 14) controlling the flow of gas and vapor between the inside of said container and the outside, the first portion comprising a rigid bottom element (4), a side element and a rigid cover element (5), said elements being capable of being connected together in a sealed manner, and the second portion being integrated into the bottom element (4),

the container being characterized in that the side element is constituted by the peripheral walls (6) of a plurality of rigid, stackable intermediate elements (3), each intermediate element being in the form of a case having an open upper portion and an openwork bottom (7), said case being capable of containing loose produce or packed or semi-packed produce, the bottom element (4), the intermediate elements (3), and the cover element (5) including connection means (20, 21) for fastening and providing a seal between a lower element and an immediately superior element.

2. A container according to claim 1, characterized in that the connection means (20, 21) comprise a downwardly open groove (22) formed at the periphery of the lower zone of a superior element (3, 5) into which the circumference of the upper zone (6a) of the lower element (3, 4) is capable of being inserted.

3. A container according to claim 2, characterized in that the groove (22) comprises a seal (26).

4. A container according to claim 2, characterized in that lower zone of each superior element also has, around the groove (22), a rib with a U shaped section and the upper zone of each lower element comprises at its
5 periphery a gutter with a U shaped section to receive the rib of the immediately superior element.
5. A container according to claim 4, characterized in that the gutter (24) or the groove (22) comprises a seal
10 (26).
6. A container according to claim 4 or claim 5, characterized in that the rib (23) and/or the gutter (24) further includes pins (27) which can snap fasten into
15 corresponding holes (28) provided in the gutter (24) and/or the rib (23).
7. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that each element (3, 4, 5) is generally
20 in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped.
8. A container according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the elements (3, 4, 5) are made of a plastics material or of a composite material or of any
25 suitable material.